



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

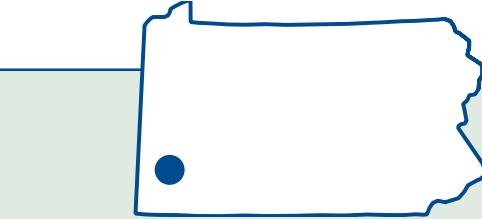
West-to-West Coalition, Inc., Monongahela River Valley, PA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The West-to-West Coalition, Inc., was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in southwestern Pennsylvania, the Coalition represents 21 small communities (total population 134,000) within the Monongahela River Valley. For years, the banks along both sides of the river were lined with steel-making operations and other heavy industries that relied on the river and adjacent rail lines for the transport of raw materials and finished products. With



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the West-to-West Coalition, Inc., for a brownfields assessment grant. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach activities and perform from six to eight Phase I and II environmental site assessments throughout the Monongahela River Valley.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team

215-814-3129

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: West-to-West Coalition, Inc., PA
412-469-1132

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

the collapse of the steel industry in the late 1900s, the region lost half of its manufacturing base and 54 percent of its manufacturing jobs. The real property tax base and population in the Valley plummeted by 75 percent. While minorities account for 19 percent of the total area population, they account for 45 percent of the population in the former industrial communities. Two such communities, the Cities of Duquesne and McKeesport, and three Valley boroughs are federally designated Enterprise Communities. The Coalition has catalogued more than 100 brownfields, affecting more than 500 acres. Assessment, eventual cleanup, and redevelopment of these properties will help the region turn the corner on environmental justice issues, address health and environmental threats, and, by returning the brownfields to beneficial use, bring jobs and tax revenues to the communities of the Valley.